



# The Daily Beat

provided by  
the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs  
and the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission

**June 19, 2007**

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## WE'RE BACK!

The Daily Beat provides daily updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian country in Montana. For additional information regarding the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs go to:  
[www.tribalnations.nt.gov](http://www.tribalnations.nt.gov) and [www.tribal.mt.gov](http://www.tribal.mt.gov)



### **Coordinator of Indian Affairs Takes Job at MSU-Billings – Temporary Appointment Made**

(HELENA) – Friday, June 1, 2005. Today Governor Brian Schweitzer announced that the Coordinator of Indian Affairs Reno Charette will be leaving to take a job at MSU-Billings. Economic Development Specialist Major Robinson will temporarily fill the position until a new hire is made.

“Reno has been a great asset to the team,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “I am looking forward to working with her in her new role at MSU-Billings.”

Reno Charette accepted the position of Director for Native American Programs at Montana State University-Billings. In partnership with tribes, MSU-B programs, and other area agencies, she will provide vision, planning, development, and establishment of a Native American Institute at Montana State University-Billings. She will also teach, obtain funding resources, and coordinate the development of a Native American Studies major.

In reflection of her position as the Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Reno stated, “The opportunity to serve Montana’s tribes and Governor Schweitzer’s mission to reach the last and the least of our communities has been an extraordinary experience marking the pinnacle of my career.”

As per Montana statute, the position will be filled after the names put forward from all eight tribes are interviewed.

Major Robinson, is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe. Prior to accepting the appointment of Acting Coordinator of Indian Affairs, Major served as one of Governor Schweitzer’s Senior Economic Development Specialists in his Office of Economic Development (GOED). Through GOED Major has worked extensively with the State Tribal Economic Development Commission and also participates on the Montana Indian Business Alliance executive team.

Before joining Governor Schweitzer’s office, Major owned Red Shed Studios, a private project development business and worked as the Construction Project Manager for the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, assisting in the planning, design and construction of the Northern Cheyenne Youth Services Center. As an active volunteer in his community, Major was co-founder and vice chairman of the Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance, co-founder and chair of the People’s Partners for Community

Development, and an active participant of the Northern Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and Custer Country board of directors.

Major graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1987 with a BA in Architecture and has invested more than 15 years in construction and project development. He and his wife Michelle reside in Helena with their two daughters.

Contact: Major Robinson, [mrobinson@mt.gov](mailto:mrobinson@mt.gov)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

First Annual Artist Market to be held July 13 and 14, 2007 at The People's Center in Pablo. Space fee is \$15 each. Open to all artists. Limited space, call ahead to register. [mariet@cskt.org](mailto:mariet@cskt.org)

#### Gazette Opinion: June flooding tests state, federal disaster response

As of Friday, the American Red Cross had sheltered two-dozen people evacuated because of floods in the Ashland and Crow Agency area, according to Paige Miller, director of the Billings Red Cross office.

#### Capitol Hill Watch | House Committee Passes Spending Bill With \$204M for American-Indian Health Services

The House Appropriations Committee on Thursday by voice vote approved a \$27.6 billion fiscal year 2008 Interior-Environment appropriations bill that includes additional funds for the Indian Health Service.

#### Blackfeet Academy features adventures and education outside the classroom

Webster's defines "adventure" as a "daring or unusual undertaking" and that's exactly the way to describe last week's BAWAP trip to Swift Dam. The Blackfeet Academy Wilderness Adventure Program (BAWAP) definitely lived up to the "adventure" part of their name as they braved the unpredictable weather for a four-day backpacking trip.

#### Rocky Boy's residents can use water if it's boiled

After more than two weeks without water, Rocky Boy's Reservation residents were allowed to turn on their taps Thursday.

#### Hot Springs students vote to change mascot

HOT SPRINGS - It began with Hot Springs girls' basketball coaches Mike Benson and Scott Wigton approaching the school board with a request: Let's spice up the gymnasium floor by painting the keys and center jump circle on the basketball court, and maybe putting a design down on the floor as well.

#### Tester unveils 'Tribal College Action Plan'

Comprehensive plan was developed at Senator's Tribal College Summit.

#### Tribes seek land, money in water rights settlement

The Fort Belknap tribes plan to ask Congress for \$240 million and nearly 55,000 acres of land as part of a water rights settlement bill being drafted by the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine tribes and the state. The federal funding would help pay for an ethanol plant and a new irrigation system that would reach 30,000 additional acres.

#### Tribal leaders unveil new 'meth toolkit'

The use of highly addictive methamphetamine is endangering tribal cultures across the nation, leaders

with the National Congress of American Indians said June 11, unveiling a new "meth toolkit" to help communities battle what they called a looming crisis.